

'Reagan' director's cut wins top honors at Anthem Film Festival ahead of theatrical re-release

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The updated version of the film was screened July 9 at Caesars Forum in Las Vegas following the festival's Filmmakers Reception and MasterClass.

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The director's cut of the biographical film Reagan, starring Dennis Quaid as President Ronald Reagan, earned two of the top awards at the Anthem Film Festival, winning both the Audience Choice Award and Best Narrative Feature ahead of its planned nationwide theatrical re-release later this year.

The updated version of the film was screened July 9 at Caesars Forum in Las Vegas following the festival's Filmmakers Reception and MasterClass. Organizers said the screening drew a packed audience during the Anthem Film Festival, which is held in conjunction with FreedomFest.

Festival founder Jo Ann Skousen said moviegoers responded enthusiastically to the film.

"Reagan is a triumphant film that captures the spirit of American resilience and the power of conviction," Skousen said. "The audience reaction was electric — standing ovations, heartfelt discussions and a clear sense that this story matters now more than ever."

She said the festival was pleased to recognize the film with its top audience honor.

"We are thrilled to award it Audience Choice and look forward to the upcoming re-release," Skousen said.

The awards come as the filmmakers prepare to bring the director's cut to theaters nationwide on Sept. 25 as part of the America250 celebration commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States.

According to the filmmakers, the expanded edition includes previously unreleased footage highlighting Reagan's presidency and legacy.

Director Sean McNamara said the recognition provides momentum ahead of the film's return to theaters.

"This recognition at Anthem means a great deal to us," McNamara said. "We're excited to bring this director's cut to theaters across the country this fall."

The latest honors add to previous recognition received by Reagan, including the Will Rogers Award and a Movieguide Award. Organizers said the director's cut is intended to introduce audiences to new footage while revisiting the life and presidency of the nation's 40th president.